

8th Grade Research Project

Mrs. Tolin

2012-2013

The time has arrived where Mrs. Tolin's 8th grade students will begin conducting research. The writing style will be informative research pertaining to three critical subtopics. The topics pertain to social issues as seen in our society both past and present

Similar to baking a cake or planning an elaborate meal, writing a research paper is a time and step intensive process. In this comprehensive writing unit, students will learn the process for writing a research paper, which includes:

- ☐ research, outlining and note-taking skills
- ☐ writing a bibliography
- ☐ developing a strong and informative thesis
- ☐ asking open-ended questions to guide research focus
- ☐ writing and thinking critically about rough drafts before completing the final research paper.
- ☐ learning and applying citation and paraphrasing methods to ensure proper acknowledgement of sources to avoid plagiarism.
- ☐ using transitional sentences to enhance writing cohesion
- ☐ writing from an objective third-person point of view
- ☐ incorporating quotes cohesively with paraphrased and summarized information
- ☐ providing support and development of main ideas

***Place a check mark in the box after you've mastered each skill.**

Research Purpose:

To develop an informative and cohesive research paper explaining the impact of a problem in our society, and revealed through a 3-part thesis statement.

Note: A 3-part thesis statement is centered on research questions, such as:

Who does it affect?

How can this be solved or minimized?

What factors contribute to its cause?

What you will need:

1. flash drive/jump drive to save all electronic materials
2. folder to keep handouts organized
3. minimum of 40 note cards
4. Zip lock sandwich bag to organize/keep note cards
5. highlighters
6. pen
7. access to internet, library and/or periodical sources
8. Student Research Packet
9. A positive, ready-to- tackle-the-world- of-research attitude & the strongest effort of organization skills you've ever applied! ☺

Research Topics: Social Issues

According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, “A **social issue** (also called a social problem) is an issue that relates to people's personal lives and their interactions with a wider society.”

Below is a list of 30 social issues, appropriate for your research project topics. Read the list and consider each one carefully. Choose 3 that interest you and that you'd like to know more about. After conducting some “light research” (Step 1 on your ‘What to Do’ list), you will then be guided into choosing your “top” choice—the one you're going to complete your entire research project on.

Circle, star or highlight topics of interest. Cross them out as you perform Steps 1-2 of the Research Process.

Alcohol abuse

Global warming

Animal rights

Gun control

Bullying, including cyber-bullying

Illiteracy

Cancer

Learning disabilities

Child abuse

Prayer in school

Civil rights

Racial profiling

Cloning

Recycling

Depression

School violence

Domestic violence

Secondhand smoke/smoking in public

Drug abuse

Smoking

Eating disorders and weight issues

Steroids

Endangered species

Suicide

Gambling addiction

Teenage pregnancy

Gangs

Terrorism

Gender issues

Welfare